THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Draft of National Health Policy, 2001 has been prepared in consultation with Central Council for Health & Family Welfare which is the highest advisory body on health and family welfare having State Minister of Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education as members and various governmental and non-governmental organisation international funding agencies and eminent individuals. Comments received on the draft policy from Parliamentary Consultative Committee, Government Departments, States / UTs. Associations and Organisations, eminent individuals and public at large are being examined. Thereafter the draft shall be placed before the Cabinet for approval. Promotion of equity and larger resource notification are some of the instant objectives of the revised health policy which shall dwell upon all aspect related to health care including regulatory mechanisms for the private sector and health insurance.

Opening of Kargil Memorial Medical College in Delhi

38. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open a Kargil Memorial Medcial College in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the project is being held up;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government propose to start it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) Government has decided to start a new Medical College at Safdarjung Hospital by the name Indrasprastha Medical College. The project is not held up. Necessary formalities to start admission to the college are being completed.

Financial Assistance for Government Medical Colleges

39. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to extend financial assistance to improve the condition of Government Medical Colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the number of colleges selected for the purpose and the amount released, so far, to each of them; and

(c) the number of colleges selected from Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have recently introduced a pilot project for providing financial assistance to the selected Government Medical Colleges for strengthening of diagnostic facilities. Till date, no Government Medical College has been selected for release of assistance under this project.

Conversion of Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore as National Cancer Institute

40. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested to convert Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore as National Cancer Institute;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Institute is catering to the patients of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and other States; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Under the National Cancer Control Programme there is no scheme to declare any organisation as National Cancer Institute. The Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore has already been recognised as Regional Cancer Centre. It is the only Regional Cancer Centre in the State of Karnataka and is receiving financial assistance from Ministry @ Rs. 75.00 lakhs every year. In addition to above, this Ministry had also released Rs. 1.00 crore for purchase of Brachy-Therapy machine to the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore during the year 1999-2000.

Proposals for Establishment of New Medical Colleges in Kerala

41. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of proposals for establishment of New Medical Colleges in the State of Kerala are pending with Government for clearance/ approval;